



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Ouachita National Forest
Cold Springs Ranger District

PO Box 417
Booneville, AR 72927

File Code: 1950/1560

Date: January 11, 2021

Dear Interested Party:

The Ouachita National Forest, Poteau-Cold Springs Ranger District, has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the construction of a new Administrative Complex. The Forest Service proposal is to build an office, visitor center, work center and associated roads and parking areas on National Forest land in Sections 5 and 8, Township 3 North, Range 29 West in Scott County, Arkansas. The project is located near the junction of US Highway 71 and State Highway 28 approximately 3 miles north of Waldron, Arkansas. This proposal includes a non-significant Revised Forest Plan amendment to assign the office land to Management Area 8 (Administrative Sites).

The proposed project is subject to the pre-decisional objection process at 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. Documentation is also available for review at Cold Springs Ranger District office in Booneville, AR.

The EA is available on-line at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/ouachita/landmanagement/projects>.

How to Comment and Timeframe

The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments per §218.2 regarding the proposed project or activity during a public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection §218.24(b)(6), §219.53. For issues to be raised in objections, they must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity and attributed to the objector. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to submit written comments on a proposed project or activity. The time period for the opportunity to comment on a proposed project or activity to be documented with an environmental assessment shall not be extended. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received in a timely manner.

Written comments must be submitted to: District Ranger, P.O. Box 417, Booneville, AR 72927 or fax to 479-675-3232. Oral or hand-delivered comments may be made at 1541 Hwy 248 West, Waldron, AR during normal weekday business hours from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx) to SM.FS.r8oucsprdcom@usda.gov.





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For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request §218.24(b)(8). Please state "Administrative Complex" in the subject line when providing electronic comments, or on the envelope when replying by mail. After considering your comments, the Forest Service will finalize the EA. Prior to decision, an objection period will be provided on the final EA and a draft Decision Notice/Finding of No Significant Impact. If you have questions about this project or would like more information, please contact Dava Bauer at dava.bauer@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Timothy L. Gill (for)

District Ranger

